

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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### **BILL INTRODUCED BY CHENEY MAKES DECEPTIVE GAS PRICE LISTINGS ILLEGAL**

INDIANAPOLIS - Irritated by the seemingly arbitrary gas prices listed on signs across Indiana? The increase in gas prices may seem unfair, but what if you were forced to pay an even higher price at the pump than was listed on the sign?

While Indiana legislators may not be able to control the flux of gas prices, they are reducing the possibility for gas companies to take advantage of their customers.

State Rep. Duane Cheney (D-Portage) has filed a new bill to serve as an amendment to the Indiana Code, which will outlaw inconsistencies in gasoline price listings.

“If a consumer drives up to a gas station with one price advertised, that person should not expect to pay a higher price at the pump,” Rep. Cheney said.

House Bill 1105 will add charging higher prices at the pump than advertised on gas station signs to the list of deceptive acts included in the Indiana Code.

“The false listing of gasoline prices is a form of deception,” Cheney stated, “and it hinders the development of trust-based consumer-supplier relations.”

Indiana legislation already covers a wide range of deceptive acts, including the false listing of business addresses or names in the telephone book, the advertisement of products that the supplier does not have, and various contract violations for work supplied to a particular consumer.

Under the proposed legislation for House Bill 1105, gasoline suppliers who knowingly deceive their customers can be prosecuted.

Cheney stated, “While the practice of charging a higher price at the pump than advertised on a sign is not widespread, it does happen. I’ve seen it. No ethical dealer could nor would support such a practice and this bill should stop the unethical business practice of some.”

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